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Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, on behalf of the Government of Georgia I would like to convey deepest condolences to the people and Governments of Haiti and Chile in respect to the tragic loss of human life during the recent earthquakes.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me congratulate you and the members of the Bureau of the 54th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women for the productive work.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by Spain and Ukraine on behalf of

In 2006 Advisory Council on Gender Equality at the Head of the Parliament was established. The activities of the Council were praised by the CEDAW Committee in 2006. Based on the importance of the activities carried out by the Council, it was given the permanent status. This change also responds to the recommendation of the CEDAW Committee on establishing a permanent institutional mechanism.

Gender Equality Council supports the activities of partner organizations, information-sharing and coordination. At the same time, the UN agencies and other international organizations still play key roles in supporting important initiatives.

In 2006 several significant legal initiatives were implemented. The laws on “Combating Domestic Violence” and “Combating Trafficking in Human Beings” were adopted. Subsequently, in 2007 the biannual National Action Plan on Combating Domestic Violence for 2007-2008 was approved. In 2009 another biannual National Action Plan on Combating Domestic Violence for 2009-2010, was approved.